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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF REFORM OF TENANT EVICTION MANDATE ON  
MUNICIPALITIES  
SB 373, HB 5538, HB 5871

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Planning and Development Committee, please be advised that the City of Stamford supports the reform of the State's tenant possession mandates on municipalities that require taxpayer funded clean up, storage and disposition of evicted tenants personal property.

The City of Stamford currently budgets \$60,000 annually to staff and manage this problem. We do have our own storage facilities which save storage costs that other towns may confront. However, our \$60,000 does not reflect any costs of these storage facilities that are part of the city's overall property budget. Further, city staff expect the current level of foreclosures will increase the workload and costs of this mandate in the near term by as much as 25%.

Simply eliminating the mandate is not enough however as we have seen landlords simply dump the possessions at the curb, necessitating city public work crews to be used to clean up the mess. As such, holding tenants and landlords responsible as suggested in HB 5871 has some merit.

Very little of the property is worth enough to merit auctions as tenants usually take the most valuable of items with them and leave behind discards and less than one-third ever show up to claim their goods.

As local government must move back to the most basic of public services such as education, police, fire and public works, we need to eliminate some of the state mandates that require the taxpayers to carry the financial penalty of decisions made by private parties.

Thank you.

Mike Freimuth  
Director of Office of Intergovernmental Relations